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Identical letters dated 31 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 31 July 2001 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 12 to 22 July 2001 they carried out 389 sorties, 114 of them from Saudi Arabia, 185 from Kuwait and 90 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 31 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 389 sorties in the period from 12 to 22 July 2001, 114 of them from Saudi Arabia, 185 from Kuwait and 90 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 90 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1115 hours on 12 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Irbil, Mosul, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Zakho, Amadiyah and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1420 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 13 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Aqrah, Mosul, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Irbil, Sinjar, Rawanduz and Dokan areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1130 hours on 16 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Irbil, Dohuk, Mosul, Sinjar, Aqrah, Tall Afar and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1215 hours on 17 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Baibo, Zakho, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Aqrah, Irbil, Tall Afar, Rawanduz and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1515 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1230 hours on 22 July 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Zakho, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Sinjar and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 299 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1350 hours on 12 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Salman, Samawah, Amarah, Qal'at Salih, Jalibah, Busayyah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2345 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 2245 hours on 13 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 23 missions, 15 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Rifa'i, Amarah, Qal'at Salih and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0100 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 2100 hours on 14 July 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 missions, seven of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and five from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Salman and Ansab areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0030 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1040 hours on 15 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and F-18 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 25 missions, two of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 23 from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Basrah, Jalibah, Artawi and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1210 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0900 hours on 17 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 53 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 37 from Kuwaiti territory by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Salman, Ma'aniyah, Jalibah, Shatrah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Basrah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i and Mashkhab areas.

Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1115 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0830 hours on 18 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 51 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 29 from Kuwaiti territory by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Basrah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Najaf, Shatrah, Diwaniyah, Hashimiyah, Taqtaqanah, Shinafiyah, Samawah, Nukhayb, Ukhaydir, Talhah and Walid areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1110 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 0830 hours on 19 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 63 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 37 from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Jalibah, Artawi and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1122 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 1207 hours on 20 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 29 missions, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 23 from Kuwaiti territory by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Umm Qasr, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Rumaythah, Qal'at Sukkar, Diwaniyah, Taqtaqanah, Jalibah, Busayyah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

(i) At 1405 hours on 21 July 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 17 missions, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 11 from Kuwaiti territory by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Basrah, Salman, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar, Qurnah, Samawah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1530 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that

has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

The fair-minded nations of the world, including most of the Arab countries, have condemned the maintenance of the no-flight zones as representing an illegitimate use of force against an independent State. Three countries that are permanent members of the Security Council, namely the Russian Federation, China and France, have stated that the enforcement of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq has no basis in any principle of international law. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, your predecessor as Secretary-General, has stated that the claim made by the United States that Security Council resolution 688 (1991) authorizes the imposition of the no-flight zones is groundless. At your press conference of 27 June 2001, you said that there was no basis in the resolutions of the Security Council for the imposition of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq. Your actual words were (SG/SM/7865):

> "You know my position on this, and I have indicated that when you analyse and read the Security Council resolutions I do not see the Security Council resolutions as a basis for that."

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against Iraqi targets and installations, the Government of Iraq urges you, given that you have said that there is no basis in the resolutions of the Security Council for the imposition of the no-flight zones, to perform the duties assigned to you [under the Charter] as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security by calling upon the governments of the countries in question to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their ongoing aggression against an independent, sovereign State and by holding the perpetrators of this aggression legally accountable for their actions.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs